

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1091

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to recognize the vital mission of the Civil War Preservation Trust and the contributions of its President, O. James Lighthizer.

WHEREAS, in the early years of the 1860s, our Republic was wracked by a tragic four-year civil war in which the forces of the North and South clashed in some 10,000 battles and skirmishes resulting directly or indirectly in the deaths of more than 625,000 soldiers and 50,000 civilians; the nature of the Union was redefined through a changed relationship between the Federal government and the several states and the demise of the institution of slavery; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the Civil War, through reconstruction, industrialization, the rapid growth of population beginning in the early years of the 20th century, the advent of the automobile and the resultant urban sprawl, many historic sites of that epic struggle are increasingly threatened by encroaching cities and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, to meet this growing threat to our historic legacy of that pivotal era, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) was formed to protect the last tangible links to that tumultuous period in American History; CWPT's 50,000 members constitute the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, CWPT employs outright purchases, conservation easements, and partnerships with federal, state, and local governments to preserve historic battlefield land and over the years it has helped protect more than 18,000 acres in 19 states; in Tennessee, CWPT has protected 198 acres at Davis Bridge, 230.4 acres at Fort Donelson, 86 acres at Parker's Cross Roads, 57 acres at Roper's Knob in Franklin, 204.83 acres at Shiloh, 110 acres at Spring Hill, and 24 acres at Stones River; and

WHEREAS, the forceful and committed President of CWPT is O. James Lighthizer of Maryland, who began a career in public service with his election to the Maryland State

Legislature in 1979; in 1983, he was elected to the first of two terms as Anne Arundel County Executive, where he successfully managed a full-service budget in excess of \$800 million; and

WHEREAS, as County Executive he established a county farmland protection program preserving over 2,500 acres and also began an aggressive acquisition program for a waterfront park that resulted in the purchase of over 900 acres and seven miles of waterfront; he was reelected in 1986 with 80 percent of the votes; and

WHEREAS, appointed Maryland's Secretary of Transportation in 1991, Jim Lighthizer created an innovative program that to date has saved in excess of 4,500 acres of Civil War battlefield land in Maryland; this program became the national model for the use of TEA-21 transportation funds for battlefield preservation; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Governor's Greenways Committee in Maryland, Mr. Lighthizer created greenways throughout Maryland; his years of commitment and innovation to preservation of farmland, greenways, and battlefields have been of immense value to CWPT as he leads its efforts; and

WHEREAS, CWPT is holding its annual conference in Nashville beginning Thursday, April 22; the event will feature tours conducted by some of the most prominent Civil War historians in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the conference will be preceded by a reception co-hosted by CWPT and Representative Steve McDaniel on Wednesday, April 21, 2004, at Nashville Sheraton Downtown Hotel; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we acknowledge and applaud the crucial work carried out by CWPT and its President, O. James Lighthizer, in preserving our common heritage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we offer our heartiest welcome to the Civil War Preservation Trust and its President, O. James Lighthizer, as they gather in Nashville for their annual conference, and most vigorously endorse their mission to preserve the remaining and endangered Civil War battlefields and other sites for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.